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# Less CIA intelligence access to give secrecy

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U.S. Senator

During the Civil War, Union Army officers used air balloons to spy on the movements of Confederate troops. It was a risky undertaking, but certainly not as dangerous as the risks that CIA officers take today to monitor thousands of Russian troops and their military installations.

All over the world, the United States confronts a Soviet Union that holds basic human rights in contempt, and stops at nothing to pursue aggressive expansionist aims.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan signified a threat to the rights of millions of religious people in a once sovereign nation. The Soviets slipped into Afghanistan during the dark, basing their movements on covert, furtive actions.

We make our country a "sitting duck" if we don't have adequate advance information to help us anticipate crises and prevent them or cope with them effectively. Likewise, we make our intelligence agents "sitting ducks" if we can't protect their identities.

Back in 1975, I introduced legislation to protect CIA officers from exposure. The Bentsen bill, currently under active consideration in both Houses of Congress, sets a 10-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine for former CIA employees who reveal, without authority, the identities of U.S. intelligence officers.

Ex-CIA employee Phillip Agee has no qualms about identifying his fo-

mer co-workers. "We will aid this struggle," Agee says, "Along with the struggle for socialism in the U.S. itself."

A tragic murder in 1975 sharpened my conviction that renegades like Agee should pay for their cold-bloodedness.

How many of you remember the plight of Richard Welch, a CIA agent gunned down as he and his wife came home from a Christmas party? Welch had been officially listed as a special assistant to the U.S. ambassador. But shortly before his death the "Athens News", an English language daily newspaper, tagged him as one of the top CIA officials in Greece.

To do their job efficiently and properly, our intelligence agents must operate with the utmost secrecy. As it now stands, there are over 200 Congressmen belonging to eight committees with access to our intelligence activities abroad.

I've urged changes in the Hughes-Ryan Act which would reduce from eight to two the number of Congressional committees having secret intelligence information. The reform would mean that 29 members on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees would be the only ones informed.

We also should tighten up the Freedom of Information Act in this Congress, to protect our intelligence capability from hostile powers which would abuse our laws to their own advantage.

There's one more piece of

legislation that I consider essential. All of you know who the Congressional Medal of Honor winners are. But have you ever heard of the Exceptional Service Medal? It goes to CIA officers who are injured or killed in the line of duty. Recipients, or their survivors, can't tell anyone about the award.

I believe that the widows and children of these brave agents deserve more than an anonymous medal. That's why I've also introduced legislation to provide a year's salary to the dependents of these slain officers.

President Carter, in his State of the Union Address, underlined the need for American to stand firm against Russian encroachment worldwide. Now, more than ever, we need a strong intelligence operation to counter hostile Soviet actions.

In this Congress, we must enact my legislation to protect the identities of CIA officers; Hughes-Ryan should be changed to sharply reduce the number of Congressional committees with access to secret information. We should pass a bill I have sponsored to provide death benefits to dependents of intelligence personnel killed in the line of duty.

We can take all of these measures without sacrificing either national security or national principle. A strong and effective intelligence capability is fundamental for our survival as the leader of the free world democracies.